Message Text

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0313

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PARM. NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE

REF: STATE 150381

- 1. BEGIN SUMMARY:
- 1. THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS IN VIENNA HAVE ALREADY TAKEN NOTE OF THE JUNE 25 BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE BY WILLIAM BEECHER ON POSSIBLE US NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS IN MBFR. ARTICLE WAS REPUBLISHED IN FRG AND AUSTRIAN PRESS. END SUMMARY.
- 2. IN JUNE 26 TALK WITH US DELOFF (KAPLAN), POLISH DELOFF WIECZOREK STATED THAT EASTERN DELEGATIONS HAD READ THE GLOBE ARTICLE WITH INTEREST AND SATISFACTION AND WONDERED WHETHER THE WEST INTENDED TO INTRODUCE ITS NUCLEAR PACKAGE IN THE CURRENT ROUND. WIECZOREK SAID THE SOVIETS WERE "PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT THE LONG EXPECTED" WESTERN MOVE ON NUCLEAR FORCES OCCUR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SINCE SUCH A MOVE "WOULD CREATE AN ENTIRELY NEW NEGOTIATING SITUATION IN VIENNA".
- 3. WIECZOREK DID NOT SAY WHAT MOVES THE EAST WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE IN RETURN FOR WESTERN NUCLEAR SECRET

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REDUCTIONS BUT INDICATED THAT THE

SOVIETS CONTINUED TO OPPOSE THE COMMON CEILING AND WERE VERY STRONGLY OPPOSED TO REDUCTION OF "A COMPLETE TANK ARMY". HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT EASTERN UNDERSTANDING FOR SOME OF THE WESTERN DEMANDS REQUIRED "A NEW IMPORTANT BALANCING WEIGHT" TO SWEETEN UP THE WESTERN OFFER. WIECZOREK SAID EASTERN OPPOSITION TO THE ALLIED TERM "BALANCED", IN THE MBFR PREPARATORY TALKS, MAY HAVE BEEN MISGUIDED; THE EAST SHOULD HAVE COME UP WITH ITS OWN DEFINITION OF "BALANCED".

- 4. WIECZOREK STATED THE USSR PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN OPPOSED TO REDUCTION OF SOVIET NUCLEAR FORCES. HE SAID THAT SOVIET OPPOSITION HAD CHANGED, HOWEVER, AND THAT THE RUSSIANS NOW WERE READY TO CONSIDER REDUCTION OF THEIR OWN NUCLEAR FORCES IN MBFR.
- 5. US DEL OFF REPLIED TO WIECZOREK'S REMARKS
 ON THE BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE BY DRAWING UPON PREVAILING
 GUIDANCE AND BY NOTING THAT PRESS SPECULATION WAS
 TO BE EXPECTED IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS. WIECZOREK ASKED
 WHETHER THE EAST COULD HELP ALONG ALLIED CONSULTATIONS
 WITH A "GESTURE". US DELOFF SAID THE ALLIES WERE
 INTERESTED IN REACHING A GOOD AGREEMENT RATHER THAN
 A GESTURE. HOWEVER, EASTERN RIGIDITY DURING THE 18
 MONTHS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE WAS NOT LIKELY
 TO CONTRIBUTE TO WESTERN FLEXIBILITY ON CURRENT
 NEGOTIATING ISSUES.
- 6. WIECZOREK'S COMMENTS ON FORCE DEFINITIONS AND OTHER TOPICS ARE BEING REPORTED BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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